

Remarks

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption as amended, pursuant to and consistent with the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases, and in light of the remarks which follow, is respectfully requested.

Claim 37 has been amended so that claims 1-11 and 37-47 will remain pending upon entry of the present amendment. Support for the amendments to claim 37 can be found at least at page 5, lines 15-24 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been presented by the present amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 37, 38, 41-45 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 97/37569 to Jorgensen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Jorgensen discloses a method and apparatus for the manufacture of an innerspring assembly. The apparatus of Jorgensen includes a gluing head (12) having a number of independently controllable nozzles (19). During manufacture, the gluing head moves longitudinally along a string of pocketed coil springs orienting the head at approximately a 45 degree angle such that the gluing head spans three pocketed coil springs at a top to bottom relationship. See Figures 17-20. This configuration enables the nozzles to simultaneously deposit varying amounts of glue on each of three adjacent pocketed coil springs. However, collectively, the nozzles generally deposit the same amount of adhesive upon each pocket to form a similar pattern of an unbroken string of glue surrounding a field which is without glue on each pocket. See pages 10-11. Jorgensen further discloses at page 11, lines 16-18, an optional example in which adhesive is only applied to alternate pockets.

Applicants submit that pending claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 37, 38, 41-45 and 47 are not anticipated by Jorgensen at least because the nozzles shown in the Figures of Jorgensen are not disposed on an axis that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of a string of pocketed coil springs to which adhesive is applied, as defined by pending claim 1. Instead, the two rows of nozzles are each orientated at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the string of pocketed coil springs, so that the outermost nozzles are positioned at the desired distance from the upper and lower extent of the string (see page 9, lines 2-6 of Jorgensen). Such nozzle orientation of Jorgensen is critical to enable the application of an unbroken line of glue

surrounding a field which is without glue in a similar pattern on each pocket. This ensures a high rate of application and high production speed in applying the desired pattern. See page 4, lines 5-11 of Jorgensen. Such a configuration is a teaching away from the claimed configuration wherein the applicators are disposed on an axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of the pocketed coil springs.

Moreover, there is no motivation to modify the disclosure of Jorgensen in a manner consistent with the presently claimed invention. By reconfiguring the nozzle orientation of Jorgensen to align the nozzles on an axis that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of a string of pocketed coil springs to which adhesive is applied would be counter to the intended purpose of the Jorgensen apparatus. Accordingly, pending claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 37, 38, 41-45 and 47 are not rendered obvious by Jorgensen.

Further, with respect to claim 37, Figures 4-6 of Jorgensen do not teach that different patterns can be applied to adjacent pockets. Rather, these Figures show a variety of suggested patterns, however, each pocket in a string would have the same pattern. As discussed above, the gluing head spans three pockets and applies the same pattern on each pocket in a string. Moreover, a teaching of adhesive only applied to alternate pockets, i.e., alternate pockets have no adhesive, is not a teaching of the application of adhesive to each pocket, wherein the quantity of adhesive in one pocket is less than the quantity of adhesive in an adjacent pocket.

Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of pending claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 37, 38, 41-45 and 47 is respectfully requested.

Claim 37 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Jorgensen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,143,122 to Mossbeck et. al ("Mossbeck"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Presently amended claim 37 contains all of the features of pending claim 1 which have been distinguished over Jorgensen as set forth above, and hence amended claim 37 is novel over Jorgensen for the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1. Moreover, Mossbeck fails to make up for the deficiencies noted above with respect to Jorgensen.

Furthermore, Jorgensen does not disclose a method of manufacture in which the innerspring assembly includes at least one region in which adjacent pockets of the first and second strings are connected by first quantities of adhesive, and at least one region in which adjacent pockets of the first and second strings are connected by second quantities of

adhesive, the second quantities of adhesive being less than the first quantities of adhesive, as defined by amended claim 37. Instead, although the distribution of adhesive applied to each pocket in Jorgensen is non-uniform, the quantities of adhesive that act to connect adjacent pockets are constant across the innerspring assembly.

Accordingly, claim 37 is not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Jorgensen and Mossbeck. Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of claim 37 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Jorgensen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,637,178 to Suenens et. al ("Suenens '178"). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Jorgensen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,016,305 to Suenens et. al ("Suenens '305"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3, 4 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the teachings of Jorgensen for the reasons noted above in relation to claim 1. Moreover, Suenens '178 and '305 are cited for teaching depending features and as such fail to make up for the deficiencies noted with respect to Jorgensen. Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of pending claims 3, 4 and 10 is respectfully requested.

Claims 39-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Jorgensen, or Jorgensen and Mossbeck, further in view of Suenens '178. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 39-40 depend from claim 37 and are patentable over the teachings of Jorgensen and Mossbeck for the reasons noted above in relation to claim 37. Moreover, Suenens '178 is cited for teaching depending features and as such fails to make up for the deficiencies noted with respect to Jorgensen and Mossbeck. Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of pending claims 39-40 is respectfully requested.

Claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Jorgensen, or Jorgensen and Mossbeck, further in view of Suenens '305. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 46 depends from claim 37 and is patentable over the teachings of Jorgensen, or Jorgensen and Mossbeck for the reasons noted above in relation to claim 37. Moreover, Suenens '305 is cited for teaching depending features and as such fails to make up

for the deficiencies noted with respect to Jorgensen and Mossbeck. Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of pending claim 46 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Suenens '305 further in view of Jorgensen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Suenens '305 does not disclose the step of positioning a first string of pocketed coil springs in juxtaposition with a plurality of adhesive applicators disposed in mutually fixed relation on an axis parallel to a longitudinal axis of the first string, as defined by pending claim 1. Moreover, as discussed above, although Jorgensen discloses a plurality of adhesive applicators, those applicators are not disposed on an axis that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of a string of pocketed coil springs, as defined by pending claim 1.

Furthermore, although the holder (18) of Jorgensen appears to allow the orientation of the gluing head relative to the string to be adjusted, Jorgensen teaches the use of adhesive patterns with a substantial transverse dimension, and the adjustability feature of the holder is provided so that the outermost nozzles are positioned at the desired distance from the upper and lower extent of the string (see page 9, lines 2-6). Hence, orientating the nozzles along an axis that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the string would be acting against the teachings of Jorgensen.

In addition, the feature of the present invention of orientating the nozzles on an axis that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the string enables the simultaneous application of adhesive to pockets along the entire length of the string. In contrast, the method of Jorgensen only enables adhesive to be applied to a few pockets at a time (see Figures 8-20).

Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 7-11 are not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of the teachings of Suenens '305 in view of Jorgensen. Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Suenens '305 and Jorgensen, and further in view of the collective teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,792,309 to Eto, EP 421,495 to Suenens et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,159,319 to Mossbeck. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and is patentable over the teachings of Suenens '305 and Jorgensen for the reasons noted above in relation to claim 1. Moreover, Eto, Suenens '495 and Mossbeck '319 are cited for teaching depending features and as such fail to

make up for the deficiencies noted with respect to Suenens '305 and Jorgensen. Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of pending claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 37-41 and 43-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Suenens '305 and Jorgensen, and further in view of Mossbeck '122. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Since amended claim 37 contains all of the features of pending claim 1 which have been distinguished over Suenens '305 and Jorgensen, claim 37 is not obvious over the prior art documents cited by the examiner for the reasons set out above in relation to claim 1.

Furthermore, claim 37 is not obvious over Suenens '305 and Jorgensen, and further in view of Mossbeck '122. These objections are based upon the assertion that Mossbeck teaches innerspring assemblies in which a central region of each pocket has a first quantity of adhesive, and outer regions of each pocket have a second, lesser quantity of adhesive, and the assertion that this arrangement falls within the scope of claim 37.

However, claim 37 defines a method of manufacture in which the innerspring assembly includes at least one region in which adjacent pockets of the first and second strings are connected by first quantities of adhesive, and at least one region in which adjacent pockets of the first and second strings are connected by second quantities of adhesive, the second quantities of adhesive being less than the first quantities of adhesive.

Clearly, Mossbeck does not disclose at least this feature of claim 37. Instead, although each pocket of the innerspring assembly of Mossbeck includes regions having different quantities of adhesive, adjacent pockets are connected by the same quantity of adhesive across the entire innerspring assembly.

Accordingly, claims 37-41 and 43-47 are not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of the teachings of Suenens '305 and Jorgensen, and further in view of Mossbeck '122. Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of pending claims 37-41 and 43-47 is respectfully requested.

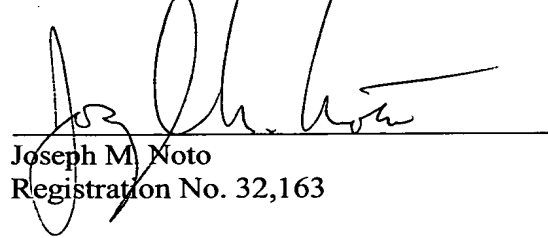
Claim 42 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Suenens '305, Jorgensen and Mossbeck '122, and further in view of the collective teachings of Eto, Suenens '495 and Mossbeck '319. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 42 depends from claim 37 and is patentable over the teachings of Suenens '305, Jorgensen and Mossbeck '122 for the reasons noted above in relation to claim 37. Moreover, Eto, Suenens '495 and Mossbeck '319 are cited for teaching depending

features and as such fail to make up for the deficiencies noted with respect to Suenens '305, Jorgensen and Mossbeck '122. Withdrawal of the record rejection and allowance of claim 42 is respectfully requested.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Noto
Registration No. 32,163

Date: March 16, 2006

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, New York 14603-1051
Telephone: (585) 263-1601
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600

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